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IDEA-0750-68
Copy 9 of 9

8 October 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report, 30 September-3 October 1968

1. Location and Purpose of Visit: The undersigned visited Detachment G during the period 30 September-3 Oct 1968 in order to: (1) observe and discuss actions being taken to resolve U-2R LOX system problems, (2) discuss status of S-1010 PPA acceptance with project pilots, and (3) to present results of underwater escape evaluations to project pilots and Detachment G personnel. The following paragraphs summarize these activities.

2. LOX System Status: Meetings were held on 30 September and 2 October between Detachment, Lockheed, and ARO Corp. representatives and the undersigned as observer/participant, to discuss LOX system problems and courses of action required to resolve these problems. The subjects covered and actions taken are the subject of a separate memorandum.

3. S-1010 PPA Acceptance: The following pilots were interviewed regarding their S-1010 PPA comfort, fit, acceptance status: [redacted] All stated that their PPA's were completely satisfactory. A modification effort to provide a full size sunshade was discussed and found to be desired by all pilots interviewed. Action is being taken to provide one such sunshade for evaluation by all pilots prior to go-ahead being given to modify all helmets.

4. Briefings on Underwater Escape Evaluations:

a. A briefing on the underwater escape evaluations conducted in August 1968 was given to Detachment G life support personnel (Flight Surgeons, P. E. Techs, and survival techs) on 1 October 1968.

b. The same briefing was given to project pilots, [redacted] and members of his staff on 3 October 1968. Pilot interest was apparent by their comments and questions, and no objections were voiced to the recommendation that project pilots receive underwater escape training prior to U-2R carrier operations.

IDEALIST
SECRET

IDEA-0750-68
Page 2

This meeting was also used to discuss the status of LOX systems with the pilots. They were briefed on the conclusions of the meetings and actions being taken to resolve problems previously encountered.

5. Conclusions and Action Required:

a. The LOX system problems are being approached in a logical manner and final conclusions should be reached concerning all aspects of use, servicing and maintenance by 1 November. All data collected during the interim period should be reviewed prior to reaching final conclusions and incorporating changes in appropriate manuals.

b. An underwater escape training program will be established for all project pilots involved, prior to U-2R carrier operations.

c. S-1010 PPA pilot acceptance is satisfactory and will be monitored on an on-going basis.



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